

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **February 26, 2004**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-27. The specification was objected to because of informalities, including claims 1-7, 9, 12-13, 16, 18-21, and 25-27. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 15-17, 19-20, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Aubel et al. (USPN 5,696,693, hereinafter "Aubel"). Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12, 14-17, 19, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cobb et al., (WO 00/67074 A1, hereinafter "Cobb"). Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lin (USPub 2002/0152449, hereinafter "Lin"). Claims 6, 13, and 20 were rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cobb in view of Lin. Claims 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Cobb. Claims 4, 8, and 11 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to because information of the co-pending application is missing.

Applicant has amended the specification to include the missing information.

Claim Objections:

The Examiner objected to claims 1-7, 9, 12-13, 16, 18-21, and 25-27 because of informalities.

Applicant has amended claims 1-7, 9, 12-13, 16, 18-21, and 25-27 to correct the Examiner's noted informalities.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22-24 to include allowable material from dependent claims 4, 11, 18, and 27. Dependent claims 4, 11, 18, and 27 are cancelled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22-24 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-3 and 5-7, which depend upon claim 1, claims 9-10 and 12-14, which depend upon claim 8, claims 16-17 and 19-21, which depend upon claim 15, and claims 25-26, which depend upon claim 24, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Edward J. Grundler

Registration No. 47, 615

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Edward J. Grundler
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
508 Second Street, Suite 201
Davis, CA 95616-4692
Tel: (530) 759-1663
FAX: (530) 759-1665